

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4752
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OUGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 6011

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GH
SUBJ: TWO MORE MEMBERS OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL FIRED

REF: ACCRA 5970

1. SUMMARY: DRASTIC CHANGES IN GOG WHICH STARTED JULY 5
CONTINUE AS TWO MEMBERS OF RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL
(SMC), INCLUDING KEY CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF, ARE REMOVED.
FURTHER CHANGES IN RANKS OF TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND
IN GOG POLICIES ARE IN PROSPECT. END SUMMARY.

2. ROLLING REVOLUTION CONTINUED JULY 24 WITH DISMISSAL
OF TWO MORE MEMBERS OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL: MAJOR
GENERAL KOTEL, CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF, AND MAJOR GENERAL
UTUKA, BORDER GUARDS COMMANDER. BOTH HAVE BEEN RETIRED
FROM THE ARMED FORCES WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT.

3. NEW CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF IS MAJOR GENERAL JOSHUA
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HAMIDU, WHO WAS SENT TO ZAMBIA LAST YEAR AS AMBASSADOR
AS A RESULT OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN ATTEMPT TO REMOVE
ACHEAMPONG IN JUNE 1977. HE IS HIGHEST RANKING ARMED
FORCES OFFICER ON ACTIVE DUTY BELOW LT. GEN. AKUFFO.

4. NEW COMMANDER OF BORDER GUARDS IS BRIGADIER OSEI-
BOATENG WHO HAS SERVED AS COMMISSIONER FOR LANDS AND

MINERAL RESOURCES SINCE HIS RETURN FROM ROYAL COLLEGE
OF DEFENSE STUDIES EARLY THIS YEAR.

5. COMPLETE BIO INFO ON NEW APPOINTEES ON FILE IN DIA.
SEE ALSO USDAO ACCRA IR 6 835 0127 78.

6. COMMENT: INFORMED COMMENT IN LAST FEW DAYS HAD
INCREASINGLY CENTERED ON KOTEI AND UTUKA AS NEXT MEMBERS
OF SMC TO GO. BOTH WERE CONSIDERED ACHEAMPONG MEN,
HIGHLY INEFFICIENT AND NOTABLY CORRUPT. THEIR DEPARTURE
LEAVES ONLY THREE MEMBERS OF PRE-COUP SMC: AKUFFO,
BOAKYE AND AMEDUME.

7. DESPITE HIS UNAVOIDABLE PRIOR CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH
ACHEAMPONG AS NUMBER TWO MAN ON THE SMC, AKUFFO IS
STRUGGLING HARD TO CREATE A BOLD NEW IMAGE BY INSTITUTING
RADICALLY DIFFERENT DOMESTIC POLICIES. OPPOSITION
PROFESSIONAL ELEMENTS AND JUNIOR OFFICERS IN MILITARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL SEEM TO BE WATCHING AND WAITING,
WELCOMING HIS REFORM MEASURES AS THEY ARE ANNOUNCED
BUT CLEARLY EXPECTING MORE. PRESSURES FOR FURTHER RAPID
REFORMS REMAIN STRONG, AND UNLESS HE MEETS THESE
SUCCESSFULLY AKUFFO HIMSELF COULD BE CHALLENGED.

8. AIR FORCE COMMANDER BOAKYE SEEMS A GOOD BET TO
REMAIN IN SMC; HE WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN OVERTHROW
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OF ACHEAMPONG AND HE PROBABLY ENJOYS CLEANEST REPUTATION
OF ANY OF ITS MEMBERS. REAR ADMIRAL AMEDUME'S
POSITION IS LESS CERTAIN; HE IS KNOWN AS ACHEAMPONG'S
MAN AND COULD BE NEXT TO BE PURGED.

9. WITH RESTRUCTURING OF SMC NOW VIRTUALLY COMPLETED,
WE EXPECT THAT BODY TO TURN ITS ATTENTION TO COMMISSIONERS,
A NUMBER OF WHOM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE REPLACED, PRESUMABLY
BY CIVILIANS IN PURSUANCE OF THE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED
"BACK TO THE BARRACKS" POLICY (REFTEL).
HOLMES

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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